Round the clock operation of Mana Airport

†4240. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mana Airport (Chhattisgarh) remains open from 7.00 A.M. to 11.30 P.M. only which causes hindrances in the operation of air services before 7.00 A.M. and after 11.30 P.M.;

(b) if so, whether any requests have been received from Chhattisgarh administration in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) The operational facilities at Mana Airport are available from 0630 hours to 0830 hours daily and from 1130 hours to 1330 hours on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, to meet the existing requirement.

(b) and (c) The Government of Chhattisgarh approached Airports Authority of India (AAI) to provide watch from Sunrise to Sunset on all days.

(d) AAI has confirmed to provide all facilities at Mana Airport to the Government of Chhattisgarh, whenever requested by them.

Hangars at Mana Airport

†4241. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chhattisgarh Government had requested the Airports Authority of India to make available an empty Hangar at Mana Airport;

(b) whether it is a also a fact that the Authority has expressed its inability in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that State Government had requested the Authority in February, 2002 for making land available so that State Government might construct Hangar on its own expenditure; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and by when permission will be accorded to Chhattisgarh Government?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) do not arise.

(d) and (e) The State Government of Chhattisgarh has requested Airports Authority of India (AAI) for allotment of 9010 square meters of land at Mana Airport for construction of Hangar, Taxi-track, VIP Lounge etc. at their own expenditure. AAI is processing the proposal and permission is likely to be accorded in due course.

Recommendations of Kelkar Committee

4242. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee's recommendations to provide sufficient funds for fleet expansion was approved by the Cabinet in 2000 but not implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the recommendations made by various committees on the safety of aircrafts have been implemented *into to*; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) Government had constituted a Committee under the Chairmaship of Dr. Vijay Kelkar, the then Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to look into the reasons for losses in Indian Airlines and to develop strategies in the context of competitive market environment. The Committee, *inter-alia*, recommended financial restructuring of Indian Airlines which included financial support of Rs. 475 crores by the Government in the form of subordinated loan for Rs. 150 crores, equity infusion to the extent of Rs. 125 crores and payment of Rs. 200 crore as compensation for the decisions taken by the Government that affected the financial performance of Indian Airlines.

As part of the implementation of the Kelkar Committee recommendations, it was decided by Government in May, 1999 to infuse Rs. 325 crores as equity in Indian Airlines in the form of margin money for acquisition of new aircraft. The fund could not, however, be released due to ongoing process of disinvestment in the company.